



AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

CERTIFICATION SERVICE

CHARLES R. HOSKINS

Director

P.O. Box 87, Ben Franklin Station

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20044

November 15, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

A check for \$8.64 is enclosed to cover return postage and registry fees for the three coins mailed to you today in two packages.

Cordially

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chuck", written in dark ink.

Charles Hoskins

Enclosure

P.S. Please return the coins in two packages: Coins Nos. 871 and 1011 to be valued at \$3,150 and Coin No. 959 to be valued at \$5,000.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

November 21, 1972

ANACS
Box 87
Ben Franklin Station
Washington, D. C. 20044

Re: No. 1011

Attention: Mr. Charles Hoskins

Gentlemen:

The 1791 Washington President small eagle submitted for an opinion weighs 185 grains and has a specific gravity of 8.8. It is particularly distinguishable by a light horizontal scratch 10 millimeters long below the shoulder and a heavy horizontal scratch 6 millimeters long below the first scratch. The C in CENT is weak. The obverse has many dents. The edge lettering is very weak and partly missing. The N in PRESIDENT has a dislocated diagonal stroke from a casting slip rather than abuse. The pot metal color shows through on the obverse at 6 o'clock, over the NT of PRESIDENT and on many areas around the edge.

The piece in our opinion is an old electrototype. It is returned herewith.

We hope we have been helpful.

Very truly yours,

EPN
atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

November 21, 1972

APACS

Box 87

Ben Franklin Station

Washington, D. C. 20044

Re: No. 571

Attention: Mr. Charles Hopkins

Gentlemen:

You have requested our opinion with respect to a 1793 U. S. Cent, Crosby 1-A. It weighs 193-1/2 grains. It has a specific gravity of about 7.0. It is in very fine condition but apparently has slight tooling in the hair. The obverse is very weak as is often the situation. The edge has complete vine and bare which are strong throughout and show wear.

There is a dent over the U in UNITED and a tiny dent between the bottom part of the 17 of the date.

Crosby, in his monograph, stated that the weights of these coins vary from 200 grains to 221 grains. The legal weight is 206 grains. The deficiency in weight of the subject coin is the only suspicious element I notice and this can nevertheless be a normal variation for a minor coin as it is only about 7% underweight whereas others are about 7% overweight. In our opinion the coin is genuine and not sufficiently altered to be rejected as an alteration.

We hope we have been of service.

It is returned herewith.

Very truly yours,



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EN/ack

REGISTERED MAIL

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

November 21, 1972

ANAC#

Box 87

Ben Franklin Station

Washington, D. C. 20044

Re: No. 871

Attention: Mr. Charles Hoskins

Gentlemen:

You have requested our opinion with respect to a 1793 U. S. Cent, Crosby 1-A. It weighs 103-1/2 grains. It has a specific gravity of about 9.0. It is in very fine condition but apparently has slight tooling in the hair. The obverse is very weak as is often the situation. The edge has complete vine and bars which are strong throughout and show wear.

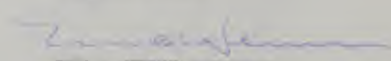
There is a dent over the U in UNITED and a tiny dent between the bottom part of the 17 of the date.

Crosby, in his monograph, stated that the weights of these coins vary from 200 grains to 221 grains. The legal weight is 208 grains. The deficiency in weight of the subject coin is the only suspicious element I notice and this can nevertheless be a normal variation for a minor coin as it is only about 7% underweight whereas others are about 7% overweight. In our opinion the coin is genuine and not sufficiently altered to be rejected as an alteration.

We hope we have been of service.

It is returned herewith.

Very truly yours,



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

REGISTERED MAIL

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 18, 1972

A.N.A. Certification Service
P. O. Box 87, Ben Franklin Station
Washington, D. C. 20044

Attention: Mr. Charles Hoskins

Re: No. 959

Gentlemen:

You have sent to us for our opinion a 1792 U. S. Voight pattern cent without silver plug. It is of the type of one of the pieces described in the December 18, 1792 letter from Jefferson to Washington. That letter describes three types of planchets for striking of the small size cent pieces; (1) by insertion of a small silver plug worth $3/4$ cents into the center of a copper planchet worth $1/4$ cents, (2) by a melt of silver worth $3/4$ cents and copper worth $1/4$ cents to produce a planchet of a uniformly fused mixture, and (3) a pure copper planchet. The letter also mentions the large planchet piece or Birch cent.

Cents with silver plugs in their centers were actually made and delivered according to the letter and are well known. The other two types of small planchet patterns without a plug were about to be made when the letter was written and the three existing pieces have not been studied by modern techniques as far as we know to determine their metallic content. The submitted piece is to be studied to see if it is a fourth example of the latter two types.

When compared to an uncirculated silver center cent from the same pair of dies the submitted piece appears to have substantial amounts of wear throughout both faces, the date being particularly weak and worn with the lines of the figure 2 being spread in width from apparent wear. The faces are well toned copper with silver peeking through on the reverse at the bow, the E of CENT and on some leaves. There is a radial scratch on the border dentillation over the left end of T in INDUST and this scratch has a bright silver color. Silvery color appears on the edge in many areas.

The submitted coin was illustrated and described in the June 25, 1969 Coin World and the June 24, 1969 Numismatic News. It was there stated that Don Taxay had it tested in the Harmer Rooke research laboratory and proven it to be made of billon. No metallic content was mentioned and we have not seen any report of the test. The coin was to be auctioned in late 1969 at Harmer Rooke according to the articles, but we cannot locate it in such an auction. It was valued at \$20,000.00 by some, according to the article.

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December 18, 1972

A. N. A. Certification Service

The weight of the submitted piece is 80.87 grains and its specific gravity is 10.03. It rings when tapped. Its diameter is virtually the same as both the silver center cent and the 1792 disme which indicates that the same planchet cutter was used for all pieces.

The weight of the Voight cents with a silver plug according to Walter Breen's findings in "The United States Patterns of 1792" (N.Y. 1954) ranges from 57 to 73 grains, the theoretical weight being stated as 69.12 grains (66 grains of copper and 3.12 grains of standard silver). We believe that the theoretical weight might be 68.78 grains (66 grains of copper and 2.78 grains of pure silver) depending on whether the plug was pure silver or standard silver (892.3 fine according to the 1792 Mint Act). In either event the submitted piece at 80.87 grains is far out of range in weight for a technical pattern specifically made to be submitted for review. An all copper planchet of the same size as the silver center cent would theoretically weigh 68.37 grains.

The specific gravity of the submitted piece at 10.03 is out of the range of any piece mentioned in Jefferson's letter. Judd in "United States Pattern, Experimental and Trial Pieces" (Racine, 1959 etc.) estimates the specific gravity of the fused metal cent at 9.05 and the pure copper cent at 8.95. We believe the 9.05 estimate is a slightly high calculation.

Because of the foregoing combination of excessive weight and excessive specific gravity we believe the idea of the piece being one which Jefferson mentioned must be abandoned. We then must determine whether it was a separate experiment or some kind of a later copy.

Nondestructive neutron activation tests for silver content were conducted by Peter Gaspar, a numismatist, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Washington University, and a researcher at the Brookhaven Laboratories. A copy of that report is enclosed. It shows that the submitted coin averages about 75% silver plus or minus 10% for error. A measurement of the volume of the submitted coin and a coordination of that with its specific gravity indicates that the balance of the coin is apparently copper. An Xray photograph through the faces of the coin shows uniform consistency and shows no plug and no solder.

An optical examination reveals that the exterior of the submitted coin is an extremely thin layer of copper. This does not account for the additional copper which should be in the interior to account for the specific gravity and neutron activation findings. Electro plating was not available in 1792 but plating by a chemical bath could have been accomplished. The plating could have taken place either before or after striking if the coin were made in 1792.

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December 18, 1972

A. N. A. Certification Service

However, the wear of the submitted coin and the thinness of the plating leads to the conclusion that no plated coin could be so worn and still retain the copper plating in heavily worn areas. Thus the plating was not applied in 1792.

The question as to whether the coin could be cast or an electrotype was next pursued. The casting of a coin in molds or in electrotype shells or building up and filling electrotypes by further plating requires a consideration of the interior content. Silver melts at 961°C (1762°F) and copper melts at 1084°C (1983°F). The melting point of a mixture of the two reaches a minimum of 779°C (1434°F) when the mixture is 72% silver and 28% copper. A silver-copper casting material or filler of 72-28 conforms to the specific gravity and neutron activation findings. Thus if a low melting point material were selected for a false coin the metals in the submitted coin are choice.

It is well known that there have been numbers of electrotypes made from Voight cents. These are readily recognizable from various defects. To find the coin from which they are made is rather difficult and has not been attempted. There is however in the submitted coin evidence which is convincing that the piece is false. There is a thin circle in the center of the reverse of the submitted coin. Its top is just under the ON of ONE. Its bottom is under E of CENT. Its right side passes through the N of CENT and its left side is on the right side of C in CENT. It is a depression in the surface.

The silver plug in a silver center cent is 2-1/2 to 3 mm. in diameter and in the identical position. There is sometimes a slight depression on the silver center cent where the silver copper joint occurs and which is not completely obliterated by the striking. The submitted coin has no silver center but has the outline of the silver plug on the reverse. It is obvious that the cast or electrotype shell used for the making of the submitted coin was taken from a silver center cent which had the contour evidence of its plug still remaining. There would be no trace of a ring on a fused metal or copper cent as the submitted coin purports to be. If copper plating were added to a cast or silver shell electrotype the ring would still show through. The submitted coin is therefore false regardless what method of manufacture was used after the initial impressions were made.

We wish to express our appreciation to Peter Gaspar for his assistance. We have no objection to this opinion being used by your service in any manner

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

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December 18, 1972

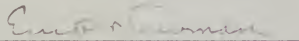
A. N. A. Certification Service

you feel justified if you agree with the opinion. The submitted piece is returned herewith and we hope we have been helpful.

Respectfully submitted,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

By


President

EPN
atb

REGISTERED MAIL

December 20, 1972

Dear Chuck,

On private U. S. gold coins authentication I put in two years studying all U. S. Assay Office, Blake, Parsons, etc. and testified before the arbitration in the Garland vs. Ryan matter. Is this enough experience on the private gold phonies?

Cordially,

From the desk of
ERIC P. NEWMAN



AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
CERTIFICATION SERVICE

CHARLES R. HOSKINS

Director

P.O. Box #7, Ben Franklin Station
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20044

December 14, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you for all of the time and effort you have put into the Voigt cent. I talked to Virgil Hancock as you suggested, and found that he doesn't know how the two shells of an electrotpe are (or were) put together.

He suggested that you check the sound, which I assume you've already done. He said he hasn't seen an electrotpe yet which gives off anything more than a "klunk."

When you're through with it, Virgil has asked that you send it to him. He'll then forward it to me.

Again, thanks. Incidentally, have you any experience at authenticating U.S. private gold coins?

Cordially,

Charles Hoskins
Charles Hoskins

CH:esl

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 20, 1972

Mr. Charles Hoskins
American Numismatic Association Certification Service
P. O. Box 87 Ben Franklin Station
Washington, D. C. 20044

Dear Chuck:

Before I got your letter of December 14, 1972 I forwarded the Voight cent back to you. Will you therefore send it to Virgil.

This coin is much more serious than an obvious electrotype. This is possibly a casting with electrotypes as molds or some kind of a plating to hold two electrotypes together. It is not the routine sandwich electrotype and it rings beautifully.

Why don't you send a copy of the material I returned to Virgil and see what he thinks. I actually cannot figure out exactly how this copy was made.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY



AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Chartered by Congress

HERBERT M. BERGEN

~~X President~~

604 No. Harbor Blvd., FULLERTON, CALIF. 92632

December 21, 1971

TO MEMBERS OF ANACS COMMITTEE:

Enclosed find biographical resume sent to me by Charles Hoskins who is applying for the position of Director.

As you know I talked to Mr. Cahoon at the Treasury after our meeting and he advised me that due to severe cuts in the Mint budget for the next fiscal year it was necessary to drop the position of Director of the Mint Numismatic Service which paid \$16,000 yearly salary. The Mint is very anxious to find a job for Hoskins and would like to see him hired for our proposed Certification Service. He was called by Mr. Cahoon and asked to come to Washington for an interview with me last Wednesday. I feel sure he wants the position and would come to Washington as soon as the job is ready to start. I told him no salary will be decided until the ANA Board meeting next February, but the committee recommendation will be about \$15,000.

Also enclosed is copy of a letter to Mr. Phil Weisser. I did find from my talk with Mr. Goldman that we will have some regulations imposed on free use of the Mint technical facilities but these should not be insurmountable. It was also indicated to me that Dr. Goldman would find it awkward and embarrassing to let Weisser and Boley, who were replaced by him, have free unrestricted use of the Mint technical facilities. I thought it best not to mention this in my letter to Weisser as it could cause them to shy away from serving ANACS as consultants. They would not necessarily have to use the Mint facilities to act as consultants because we would in time have all the less costly instruments for coin examination.

Regarding reimbursement of travel expenses to committee members for the Dec. 11 meeting, I have asked Executive Director Adna Wilde to advise me what amount is in the earnings account of the ANAT fund which can be used for payment of committee expenses. I personally paid Mr. Boley \$82 for travel from his home to Washington for this meeting. I also paid \$12 for the committee luncheon. These costs will have priority. Eric Newman has waived reimbursement of any expense. Each committee member should let me know his amount of travel expense.

Each member is asked for comments at an early date on the application of Charles Hoskins. He is considering another job that Treasury officials say may open soon in another branch of government.

Sincerely,

Herbert M. Bergen
Herbert M. Bergen, Chairman

HMB/mc
Encl. (2)

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 29, 1971

Mr. Herbert M. Bergen
604 No. Harbor Blvd.,
Fullerton, California 92632

Dear Herb:

I have known Charles Hoskins for many years and I believe his public relations ability will be needed in the development of the ANACS. I think he is capable enough to be trained. I believe his name is held in respect by the numismatic fraternity. I believe the position being offered him is one of dignity where he can enjoy his work and where he can accomplish enough to bring him recognition personally.

I, naturally, am interested in what kind of rules are going to be worked out by Dr. Goldman with respect to the use of the Mint facilities. There must be some friction which has not yet been opened up and which may possibly be solved if it were opened up.

I will work on the draft of rules if you feel that is timely and I hope the others will also do so.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 29, 1971

Mr. Herbert M. Bergen
604 No. Harbor Blvd.,
Fullerton, California 92632

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I will work on the draft of rules if you feel that is timely and I hope the others will also do so.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb